

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: CONFERENCE SUPPORT FOR
REGIONAL GROUP MEETINGS

REF: COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES DOCUMENT CRP 20

1. CRP 20 ADVOCATES ALLOCATION TO REGIONAL GROUPS OF 10 TO
15 PERCENT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANNED UN MEETINGS IN
CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND PROGRAM BUDGET. IT IS RECALLED
THAT NO SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY EXISTS AND NO
PROVISION HERETOFORE HAS BEEN MADE IN CALENDAR AND PROGRAM
BUDGET FOR MEETINGS OF REGIONAL GROUPS. SUCH MEETINGS HAVE
BEEN SERVICED ON QUOTE AS AVAILABLE END QUOTE BASIS.

2. AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE DEPT HOLDS THAT MEETINGS

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FINANCED FROM ASSESSED BUDGET SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL MEMBER

STATES.

3. DEPT HAS DIFFICULTY WITH PROPOSAL AND VIEWS CRP 20 AS INADEQUATE BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO UNGA BY COMMITTEE. THE CRP CONTAINS NO DEFINITION OF REGIONAL GROUPS. IS IT

INTENDED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT G-77, NAM, AND UNCTAD/UNIDO GROUPS A-D WOULD BE CONSIDERED REGIONAL GROUPS AS WELL AS THE RECOGNIZED GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS? THE CRP PROVIDES NO INSIGHTS AS TO HOW THE ALLOCATION SHOULD BE DIVIDED UP AMONG GROUPS. WOULD A DECISION TO AUTHORIZE THE ALLOCATION SERVE AS A SPRINGBOARD TO SERVICING REGIONAL MEETINGS AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS? WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS? ANSWERS TO THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS SHOULD BE STUDIED BY MEMBER STATES BEFORE SUCH A FAR REACHING DECISION AS THAT SUGGESTED IN CRP-20 IS MADE.

4. NOTWITHSTANDING PARA 3 ABOVE NUMBER OF MEETINGS PROPOSED FOR ALLOCATION APPEARS EXCESSIVE. THE NUMBER OF INFORMAL REGIONAL MEETINGS SERVICED ON QUOTE AS AVAILABLE END QUOTE BASIS HAS RANGED OVER LAST FIVE YEARS FROM 10.8 PERCENT TO 12.9 PERCENT OF TOTAL MEETINGS. WE ASSUME REGIONAL MEETINGS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SERVICED ON QUOTE AS AVAILABLE END QUOTE BASIS. IN THAT CONNECTION WE NOTE (SEE CRP 19) UNDER-UTILIZATION OF SCHEDULED INTERPRETING SERVICES. FOR EXAMPLE, UTILIZATION FACTOR FOR INTERPRETERS FOR THIRD SESSION OF LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE WAS 71.25 PERCENT AND FOR FOURTH SESSION WAS 76.67 PERCENT, LEAVING SIGNIFICANT INTERPRETING CAPACITY FOR UTILIZATION ON QUOTE AS AVAILABLE END QUOTE BASIS.

5. USREP SHOULD OPPOSE ANY AFFIRMATIVE DECISION ON PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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